



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	BARTOW, FL	Accident Number:	ATL96LA106
Date & Time:	07/09/1996, 1015 EDT	Registration:	N6356
Aircraft:	Bell 47G	Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Aerial Observation		

Analysis

The purpose of the flight was to survey alligator nests along a canal. According to the pilot, they had been flying low (50 to 100 feet), at approximately 35 miles per hour, along the canal when the passenger warned him of utility lines crossing their intended route of flight. As the pilot executed a quick stop maneuver to avoid a collision with the utility lines, the tail rotor assembly collided with the ground. No mechanical problems were reported. The pilot also stated that a better scanning technique, and a slightly higher altitude may have prevented this accident.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's inadequate visual lookout, and his failure to maintain ground clearance, while maneuvering to avoid a collision with a utility line.

Findings

Occurrence #1: DRAGGED WING, ROTOR, POD, FLOAT OR TAIL/SKID
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. LOW ALTITUDE FLIGHT/MANEUVER - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. OBJECT - WIRE, TRANSMISSION
4. MANEUVER TO AVOID OBSTRUCTIONS - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND
6. (C) ALTITUDE/CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	26
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane; Helicopter
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine; Helicopter
Flight Time:	1250 hours (Total, all aircraft), 500 hours (Total, this make and model), 1150 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 120 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 60 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Bell	Registration:	N6356
Model/Series:	47G 47G	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	MAVERICK HELICOPTER INTER	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	VO-435-A1F
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Aerial Observation		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	LAL, 142 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 12000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots / , 220°
Temperature:	29° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Destination:		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	PHILLIP POWELL	Adopted Date:	12/23/1996
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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